

## **Pension Application for John Kitts**

R.6001

State of New York

Lewis County

On this eighteenth day of September in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty two—personally appeared in Open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Lewis now sitting John Kitts a resident of the Town of Lowville in the County of Lewis and State of New York aged seventy three years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He entered the service in the year 1775, in the New York Militia as a corporal and served as such for the three first years of the war. That he was then appointed a Sergeant which duty he performed till the end of the war—That he served under Captain Andrew Wempel (1) in the Regiment commanded by colonel Frederick Fisher until May 1780, when Capt. Wempel desated (2) [deserted] to the enemy and Colonel Fisher (3) was wounded and scalpt.

That he then served under Minard W. Quackenbush (4) Captain and Volkert Veeder as Colonel until the close of the war—That he was in actual service at least three or four months in each year though he cannot state the time of entering and leaving the service in each instance as he was called out a number of times every year, for eight years, and he is confident that he served in all not less than two years under the officers above mentioned—That he served as a volunteer—That the services above mentioned was performed on the Mohawk River in the State of New York.

That he has no documentary evidence to establish his claim.

That he resided at the time of entering the service above mentioned in the Town of Johnstown Montgomery County New York.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

(Signed with his mark) John Kttts

Sworn & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid, Caslis P. Scovil, Clerk

We John Blodget a Clergyman residing in the Town of Lowville in the County of Lewis and [blank] of the same place hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Kitts who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe said Kitts to be Seventy three years of age that said Kitts is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have have [sic] been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. John Blodgett, Jacob Boshart

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant was a [here the record ends]

Letter included in the pension folder.

[Hand written note at top of page.] I put this carbon in this case as it will be easier to catch the correspondence than elsewhere. See his letter & another copy in John Kitts, S.23745

July 23, 1937

Mr. Albert M. Rung  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of Caleb Armitage, and photostatic copies of papers on file in a claim for pension which, you state, was made by one John Kitts who was born in 1762 in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, served in the Revolutionary War, was greeted with cheers by Congress in Washington, D.C., in February, 1870, when he stated that he had never requested a pension but, because of circumstances at that time, was forced to do so.

There is no claim for pension on file based upon service in the in the Revolutionary War of a Caleb Armitage, nor is there a claim for pension on file in this office which was made by a John Kitts as described above.

Reference to an old volume which contains a list of private claims presented to the House of Representative of the United States, from the 32<sup>nd</sup> To the 41<sup>st</sup> Congress, inclusive, discloses that one John Kitts presented to the House of Representatives a claim for Revolutionary War pension in the 41<sup>st</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sessions, which transactions were recorded on pages 312 and 313 of the House Journal; that the claims were referred to the Committee on Revolutionary War Pensions, number of the Bill 11927, also, that the Committee was "discharged" and the papers "laid on the table". The volume referred to above does not show any subsequent action in the matter.

No papers in the transactions were filed in this office.

Very truly yours

A.D. Hiller, Executive Assistant to the Administrator

#### End Notes—R.6001—John Kitts

1. Andrew Wemple may have been appointed captain in 1776 or 1777 but was not originally appointed when the August 26, 1775 appointments were made for officers in Colonel Frederick Visscher's Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Andrew was commissioned captain on June 25, 1778. The following officers were commissioned in his company of the same day: Henry Vrooman as the first lieutenant, William Lare or Lard, Laird, Lord, etc., as the second lieutenant and Adam Dockstader as the ensign.
2. Several officers and enlisted men deserted from Colonel Visscher's Regiment on May 17, 1780. Colonel Visscher ordered the regiment out to find those that had left but Captain Wemple and Lieutenant Lare did make it to Canada. Wemple was appointed a lieutenant in Butler's Rangers and Lare was with Sir John

Johnson in his October 1780 raid. Lare was captured after the Battle of Klocksfield on October 19, 1780. He was examined later by the Commissioners of Conspiracies. Eventually in 1781 he was sentenced to serve as a private for nine months in one of the levy regiments being raised in New York. He was appointed a sergeant in May of 1781 in Captain Garret Putman's Company in Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment of New York State Levies. Sergeant Lare fought at the Battle of Johnstown on October 25, 1781 under Captain Putman.

3. Colonel Visscher was tomahawked and scalped on May 22, 1780 by troops and Indians under the command of Sir John Johnson. Visscher was sent to Schenectady to be treated for his wounds. Although he did eventually recover from his wounds he did not return to Tribes Hill until after the war. Lieutenant-Colonel Volkert Veeder of Visscher's Regiment commanded the regiment until the end of the war.
4. Myndert W. Quackenbush was appointed Second Lieutenant on August 26, 1775 in Captain John Visscher's Third Company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment. John was Colonel Visscher's brother. Captain Visscher was killed in Johnson's Raid on May 22, 1780 as well as his brother Hermanus. First Lieutenant John Wemple was then appointed Captain of the company and Quackenbush was appointed first lieutenant. They both were commissioned on March 8, 1781. On March 16, 1781, Quackenbush was suspended, having been found guilty of disaffected practices. What happened after that date of the suspension is unknown. Kitts served as a corporal under Captain Visscher prior to his death he appears not to have served under Captain John Wemple. John also served as a private in Captain Abraham Veeder's Second Company in Colonel Visscher's Regiment probably after May of 1780. On some of the records he is listed as John Kitts, or Kits, Kitz, etc., Jr. Also a Jacob and John Kitts served in Captain Jellis Fonda's Company of Exempts in Colonel Visscher's Regiment.